

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### **EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT**

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

2. The application has been amended as follows:

**A) Replace claim 4** of the 5/1/2008 amendment response with the following

**Examiner amended claim 4:**

**---Claim 4 (currently amended)** The magnetic resonance method as set forth in **claim 6**, further comprising:

compensating for a change in the main magnetic field by adjusting the main magnetic field based on the measured spatial data corresponding to the main magnetic field.

### ***Allowable Subject Matter***

3. Claims 2-6, 8, 10, 12-14, 16, 17, 20, 21, and 23-28 are allowed.

4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claims 2-6, 8, 10, 12-14, 26, and 27 are allowable over the prior art of record because the prior art of record does not teach or disclose a magnetic resonance method comprising measuring spatial data corresponding to the main magnetic field by applying a spatially nonselective radio frequency excitation, reading at least two

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gradient echoes using magnetic field gradients imposed along a selected direction, and computing a nonuniformity of the main magnetic field along the selected direction from the at least two gradient echoes, in combination with the remaining limitations of the claims.

Claims 20, 21, 23-25, and 28 are allowable over the prior art of record because the prior art of record does not teach or disclose a magnetic resonance imaging apparatus comprising a plurality of magnetic field sensor disposed at different positions in the main magnetic field, the plurality of magnetic field sensors operating independently from the magnetic resonance imaging scanner, the plurality of magnetic field sensors configured to measure spatial data corresponding to the main magnetic field, in combination with the remaining limitations of the claims.

Claims 16-17 are allowable over the prior art of record as stated in the previous office action.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

### ***Conclusion***

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to MEGANN E. VAUGHN whose telephone number is (571)272-8927. The examiner can normally be reached on 8 am- 5 pm.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Diego Gutierrez can be reached on 571-272-2245. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

MEV  
Patent Examiner Art Unit 2831  
6/6/2008

/Brij B Shrivastav/  
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2831